



The GRANGE

Issue: 93

FEBRUARY

2004

CHAIR'S REPORT - by Cathy Stroud, Chair, The Grange

SHOCKING ... SCANDALOUS INCORIGABLE I have never seen nor heard anything like it

No, this is not about the Blackout of 2003. These are comments that might have been heard about Mr. Chin. One does not tell tales of their former employers. I am delighted to say that Jack Carr is continuing his performances in the Music Room as Mr. Chin.

In the summer of 2003 we had 12 Teens Behind the Scenes summer students. Eleven of the students helped as Historical Interpreters and one came in to help the House Committee with their duties. During this time we also had visits from Boulton and Robinson relatives and yes, they did sign the guest book.

This past fall we resumed our monthly Enrichment dinners. We had very interesting and entertaining speakers. In September of 2003, The Grange officially began operating on gallery hours. Overall, this decision has been very successful with the House averaging 10 - 20 visitors after 4pm. Also in September, was the Annual Gathering for AGO volunteers. I had the privilege of being the first speaker of the evening, introducing Michael Parke-Taylor who was the curator for the Degas Exhibit. The Grange was well represented this night with 30 attendees.

Before we realized it, it was time to decorate for the Christmas season. Our annual Christmas party was very successful and it was wonderful to see so many old and new friends. Over the Christmas holidays (and during the last 2 weeks of the Degas Exhibit) we had almost double the number of visitors compared to the same period last year. Thank you to all the volunteers who kept their chins up, their sense of humour and helped with all the extras that keep The Grange running so smoothly.

As Chair, I unfortunately have to sometimes deliver sad news. First, in September, Marg Wilson, a long time Sunday volunteer passed away suddenly after an operation. I spoke with her daughter and she suggested that in lieu of flowers, her mother would have appreciated donations to The Catherine Collective. If you wish to do this let me know and I will provide the details. Second, Bev Sutton another long time Granger and Friday Day Captain decided that perhaps she'd invested enough time with us and it was time to retire. We thank her for all she has done to help The Grange and wish her well. Finally, Elaine Maloney has resigned as Newsletter Editor. We would like to thank her for all the extra hours she has devoted in creating The Grange Newsletter while working at her full time job and continuing to volunteer on Wednesday evenings.

At The Grange we like to celebrate achievements and recognize volunteers for their work. In 2003 many of our volunteers celebrated milestones at The Grange. The names of these wonderful volunteers can be found inside the newsletter. We also congratulate Nancy Lofft and Annie O'Brian for being honoured with the Volunteer Service Awards by the Provincial government. These things make you realize that once The Grange is in your heart it is very difficult to leave.

We have many things to look forward to in 2004. The Unveiling of the model for the new AGO, Art Rocks winter party for Staff and Volunteers in February, and not to mention, various exhibits in the gallery.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Volunteer Anniversaries	pg 2
Newsletter Editor Vacancy	pg 2
The Grange Volunteer Executive	pg 2
Curatorial Corner	pg 3
Photos - Christmas concert	pg 3
Exerpt from Goldwin Smith	pg 4

WANTED

CHAIR PERSON for the HISTORIC KITCHEN

Pauline Lee's 2 year term comes to an end in May, 2004 and we are searching for her replacement. Interested volunteers should see Cathy Stroud, Chair of The Grange for information and a description of the position placement.

**THE GRANGE
MARCH BREAK
ACTIVITIES**

MARCH 15 - 19, 2004
WATCH FOR DETAILS

**THE GRANGE
VOLUNTEER SUPPERS**

Monday, FEBRUARY 23, 2004
SPEAKER - TO BE ANNOUNCED

**THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEERS
CELEBRATED ANNIVERSARIES
WITH THE GRANGE IN 2003**

15 Years at The Grange

Elaine Freedman - Tuesday Afternoon

10 Years at The Grange

Michelle Abrams - Sunday Afternoon

Marie Baggot - Wednesday Bridge & Alternate Sunday

Mornings (Marie is also a

Meeter & Greeter in the Gallery)

Adele Blady - Sunday Afternoon

Elaine Maloney - Wednesday Evening

Edna Rigby - Sunday Day Captain

Susan Wakefield - Saturday Afternoon

Lorraine Warren - Wednesday Afternoon,

Librarian and Library Committee Representative

5 Years at The Grange

Tory Thompson - Monday House Committee

Pat Ward - Wednesday Evening

WANTED:

VOLUNTEER EDITOR for THE GRANGE NEWSLETTER

After more than 8 years, Elaine Maloney has resigned as Newsletter Editor of The Grange Newsletter, effective February 2004. She will, however, continue to volunteer on Wednesday Evenings as an Historical Interpreter at The Grange. Anyone interested in this "volunteer" position should contact Cathy Stroud, Chair of The Grange, as soon as possible. The ideal candidate is a good communicator, has exceptional word processing & computer skills, has access to a computer and has the desire to enhance his or her volunteer experience.

**The Grange
Volunteer Executive
2003-2004**

CHAIR

Catherine Stroud
(416) 979-6660 ext: 338
Grange_Volunteer@ago.net

SECRETARY

Jane Ash

TREASURER/RESEARCH

Avril Stringer

COMMITTEES

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Helvi Hunter

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Jane Heinemann

HISTORIC KITCHENS

Pauline Lee

MODERN KITCHEN

Helen Hatton

DAY CAPTAINS

Monday: Jane Heinemann

Tuesday: Elvira Putrus

Wednesday: Mary Lou Zingrone

Wednesday Bridge: Helvi Hunter

Wednesday Eve: Marg McGuigan

Thursday: June O'Brien

Friday: Virginia Mladen

Saturday: Linda Ness / Richard Seto

Sunday: Edna Rigby

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

To Be

Announced

SITE

CO-ORDINATOR

Jenny Rieger

(416) 979-6660 ext: 237

Jennifer_Rieger@ago.net

REMINDER

Please submit news articles & letters to the editor for the next Grange newsletter by **FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2004.**

CURATORIAL CORNER BY JENNY RIEGER

In October 2003, I attended the National Historic Sites Alliance of Ontario conference at Sharon Temple. As always it was a wonderful conference. This organization is a grassroots group formed by a representative from Parks Canada and from a non-Parks Canada site. Its mandate is to promote the Commemorative Integrity and value of national historic sites through cooperative action by site owners, managers and stakeholders. It links the more than 250 sites that have been designated in Ontario through the conference, a newsletter *Sitelines*, and specific projects. I have been on the conference committee for several years and am now on the Steering Committee.

On the first day of the conference we were privileged to have Charlotte Gray as our keynote speaker. She spoke of her interest in the ordinary people of history and discussed, using the Children of Peace and Sharon Temple as examples, her interests and passions in history. Her next book will be a collection of over 200 letters representative of a variety of people, places and events in Canada's past. Our conservation session focused on issues facing wood structures and buildings. Sharon Temple was an excellent model for this presentation as it is a huge wooden building, beautifully built, but suffering the ravages of both time and

earlier restoration efforts. After a marvelous dinner at Oakland Hall (itself a restored building) we began the next day discussing the significance of being a national historic site. As many of you are aware, although there are excellent programmes in place for preserving these sites, there is no federal money. What about if you are a non-Parks Canada site or a privately owned site? This was, at times, a heated discussion and the NHSAO is struggling to find its role as an advocate. The final session of the day was on forming and working with "Friends Groups". These are organized groups of volunteers dedicated to helping the site either through advocacy, fundraising, running it or even maintaining it. Suzie Stohn, the National Director of the Canadian Federation of Friends of Museums (CFFM), which is headquartered in the AGO, was one of the speakers. She was joined by Joe Gill and Jo Ann Pynn, from Ft. York who discussed the work of the Friends of Ft. York and its relationship to the staff and the fort and Bob Willson, Friends of the H.M.C.S. Haida, who told the story of the preservation of the Haida by their group.

If you have never been to Sharon Temple, it is well worth the visit. I have rarely been so moved by the actual sight of the building. It is breathtaking and very beautiful.



On Wednesday December 17, 2003 a Christmas Concert was held at The Grange Music Room featuring the Hart House Chorale. Concert guests were served cider and shortbread during the concert intermission.

Four of our volunteers along with Sarah Walker, owner of 'The Costumemaker Studio', dressed in costumes of various periods to help enhance the atmosphere of the evening. They are from left to right, Virginia Mladen (Friday), Ruth-Anne Jolly (Sunday), Sarah Walker, Diane Reid (Sunday) and Michelle Abrams (Sunday). Photo courtesy of Diane Reid. Diane Reid is also partner with Sarah Walker in 'Historical Fashions on Show'.

The following is an excerpt from Goldwin Smith:

His Life and Opinions by Arnold Haultain.

Arnold Haultain was Goldwin Smith's secretary for many years and became his literary executor.

July 1904

"The Grange was a delightful habitation. To enter its portal was to enter a household of quiet, culture and refinement. Pictures, statuary, old English furniture, greeted your eye on every hand. In the hall and in the drawing-room were copies of paintings beloved of The Grange's master. The four walls of the dining-room were covered with copies of Cromwellian heroes also, and naturally very much beloved of the master - that of Cromwell himself held the place of honour over the mantelpiece. To the gentle lady of the house, his wife, the grim Professor was always kind, considerate and affectionate. Did she enter the library in the morning, when work was agoing, that work was stopped and a chair was drawn up before the fire. His work, my Chief kept to himself, and much ado sometimes I had to parry questions about his work.

By the servants the Chief was adored. The butler, a most lovable and intelligent Englishman had been in The Grange for more than half a century. Chin (this was his name) was a great a man in his way as was his master in another. Had Chin's devotion, uprightness, conscientiousness, tact and intelligence been for this half century, expended on another - say on a political or public plane, he would have been as famed as is he whom he served. All visitors to The Grange retained an affectionate admiration of Chin.

As for myself, it may seem an incredible assertion, nevertheless I assert it, disbelieve it who may: during the whole eighteen years that I sat at Goldwin Smith's elbow, never once did even a shade of irritation or exasperation cross his brow. That is a simple fact. On certain topics we differed as the poles, and he knew it. But, as I say, never did he show against me personally anger or irritation. When I think of how very young and ignorant I was as compared with him, I love my old Chief for this his extreme and exemplary long-suffering."

Not a great deal has changed. In the dining room now are only two portraits purchased by Goldwin Smith, engravings of William Pitt and Lord Horatio Nelson. Both of these engravings were of marble busts sculpted by Charles Knight 1809 and the Honourable Anne Seymour Damer 1801 respectively. The Cromwellian heroes beloved of Goldwin Smith are still part of the Gallery collection.

We can offer the visitor a re-incarnation of William Chin, the loveable and intelligent Englishman mentioned by Mr Haultain, in the "Mr Chin Reminisces" written and performed by Jack Carr, an AGO docent. A schedule of these performances can be obtained from any of The Grange interpreters.

An earlier item from the same book gives some indication of the character of Goldwin Smith.

May 1903

"An illustration of Stonehenge was in his hands today."

"Everybody professes to be puzzled," he remarked, "as to how Stonehenge was built. I can't see that there is anything puzzling about it. They say there are no boulders within miles of Stonehenge. The answer to that is that all the great boulders within that radius were used to build Stonehenge. Nor do I see much difficulty in the method of erecting them. Nature would have suggested an inclined plane and no doubt an inclined plane and rollers were used. The stones are buried deep in the earth. They probably dug a hole, erected an inclined plane at the edge of it, dragged the bolder up to this, and tilted it in. So, an inclined plane and rollers would suffice to place the slabs on the top. There was no scarcity of labour -- captives supplied that. I don't suppose there was any machinery for raising great weights; but the inclined plane and rollers would do all that was required.

- Avril Stringer, Research Committee

POTASH, PEARLASH AND SOAP MAKING part II

Correction re: Newsletter July 2003

The "Grange Connection" addendum to my article on soap making (July/03 Newsletter) I'm sure was confusing to many readers. It would seem that today's computers do not understand the old British currency £. s. d. or pounds, shillings and pence; and particularly 1/2 d - halfpenny or ha'penny. In the interests of clarification, the record of soap purchased by the Boulton family from the Proudfoot store is repeated:-

"On August 19, 1828 D'Arcy jr purchased "2 pieces" of soap from William Proudfoot at a price of 2/- (2 shillings) More soap was purchased on October 30 of the same year for 1/6_ (one shilling and sixpence ha'penny) then on November 11, 60 soaps @ 7 pence each. Another 60 - 7 penny soaps were purchased on August 24th of the following year. Inflation was a factor in those days too: by 1830 the price had gone up to 7_ (sevenpence ha'penny). These 7 4 penny soaps were a regular purchase for the Boulton family."

- Avril Stringer, Research Committee